



2nd Public Meeting for Toms Brook Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

January 13, 2004



Why Are We Here?

- To improve and protect water quality in the Toms Brook Watershed
- To explain the TMDL process
- To gather information and public comment
- To encourage participation in the process



Why Toms Brook?

- DEQ routinely monitors the quality of waters across the state and reports those results every 2 years
- In this report, Toms Brook was listed as “impaired”
 - due to violation of the general aquatic life (benthic) standard



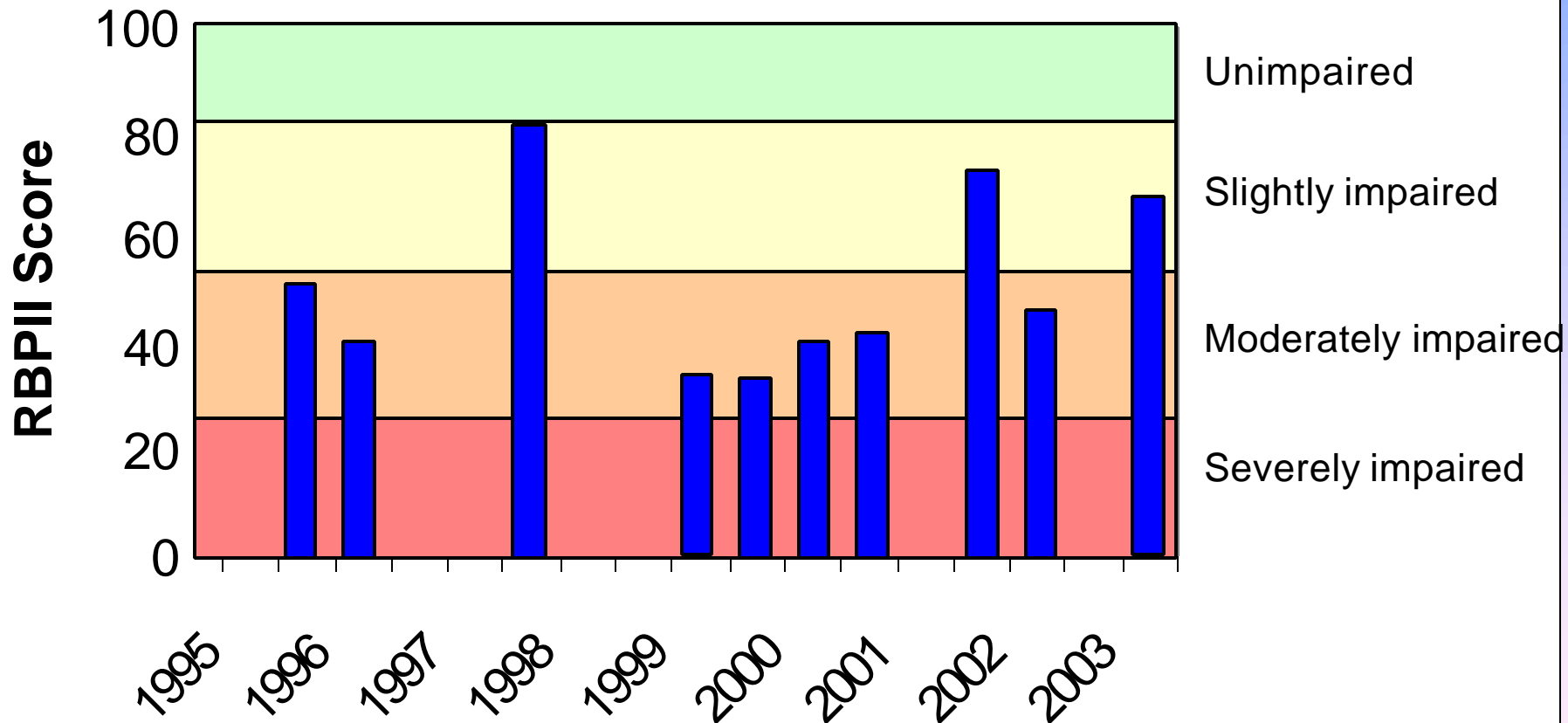
What Does “Impaired” Mean?

For Benthic Standard

- The regional biologist does an assessment of the stream each spring and fall
 - Benthic (bottom-dwelling) macroinvertebrates (animals without backbones) are collected and identified
 - The numbers and kinds of different benthic macroinvertebrates are compared to a healthy reference stream
 - The stream is scored based on this comparison



What Are Benthic Scores for Toms Brook?



Why Do We Care About the “Bugs”?

- Important food source for fish
- Important in cycling nutrients
- Good indicators of pollutants and overall stream health



What Happens When a Stream is “Impaired”?

- DEQ is required by law to conduct a study and develop a plan to correct the impairment
 - TMDL Study
 - TMDL Implementation Plan



What Does TMDL Mean?

T_{total}

M_{maximum}

D_{aily}

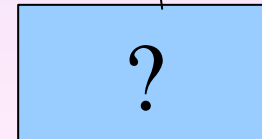
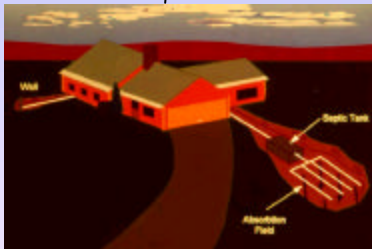
L_{oad}

- A TMDL describes the amount of pollution a stream can receive and still meet water quality standards
- The TMDL is a tool to assist in improving and protecting water quality

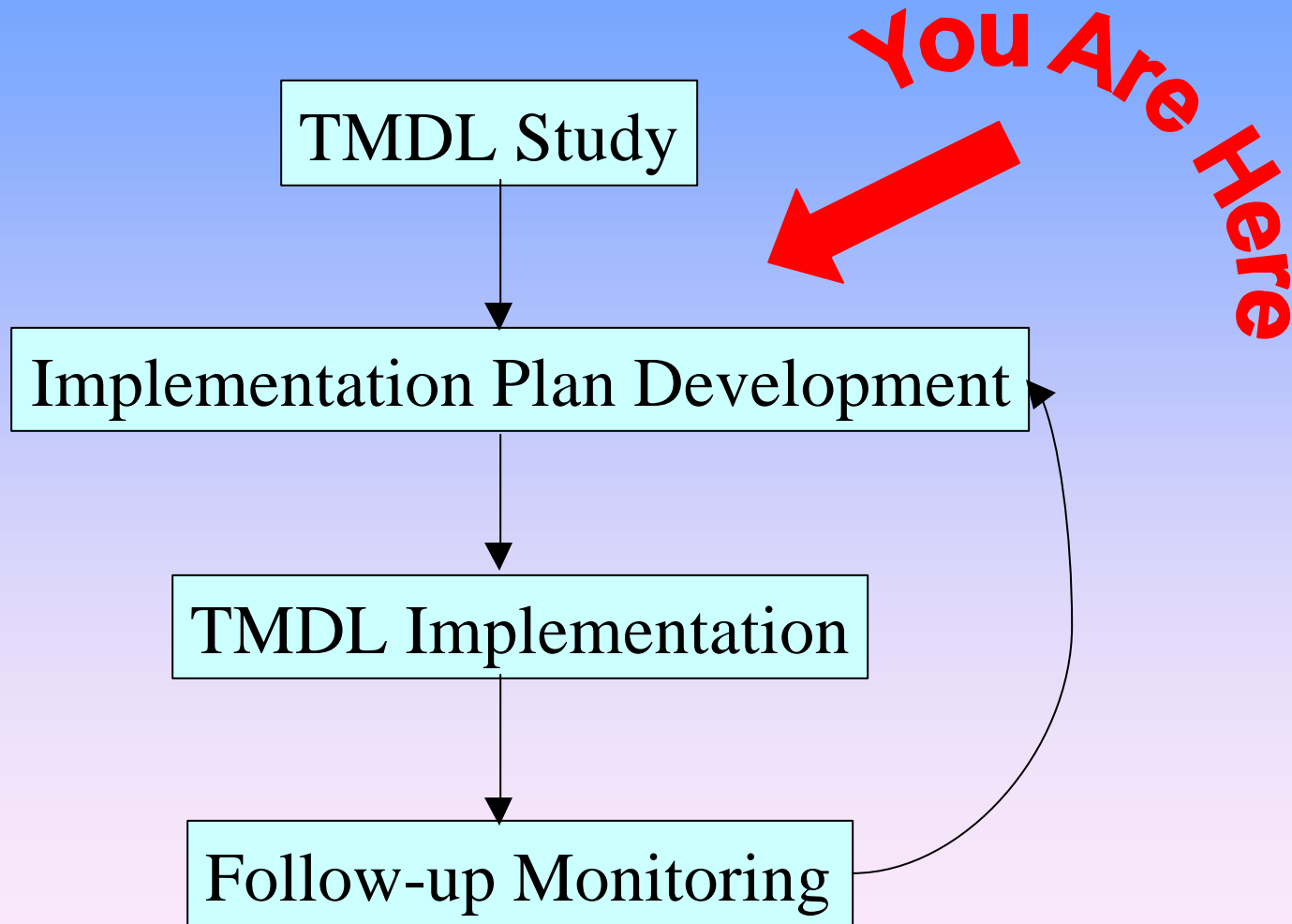


What is a TMDL Study?

- A TMDL Study identifies
 - all sources of pollution
 - amounts from each source
 - reductions necessary to meet water quality standards



What is the TMDL Process?



Who do I contact for more information?

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- Comment period for this public meeting ends February 12, 2004

